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Out of this total, 58,028 are nominally laid in stone, but of these only 16,118 kms. can be reckoned as good. The rest may be divided into two categories: 27,961 kms. requiring reparation, and 14,909 kms. requiring complete reconstruction. A good network of roads answering the requirements of the country would necessitate the construction of 2,000 kms. of permanent surface roads (paved with granite), 9,000 kms. of semi-permanent or macadamized, while the remaining 59,000 kms. of the existing network should be completely overhauled every six or seven years.

The requisite sum for the construction of this mileage on the basis of present prices would be 40 milliard lei, and the annual outlay for its maintenance may be reckoned at 1,380 million lei.

It was reported that owing to lack of resources the Minister contemplated the adoption of a system of conscript labour, similar to that introduced into Bulgaria, in order to carry on the work of repairing the roads and of constructing 300 to 400 kms. annually, especially in Bessarabia, which was utterly devoid of semi-metalled trunk roads.

The lack of roads in Bessarabia has been one of the standing grievances of the population against the Bucarest Government, for along with the absence of railways, it is next door to impossible to convey agricultural produce to market. One might have thought that steps would have been taken at least to deepen the channel of the Pruth, from its mouth to Ungheni (near Iassi), which would have served as an excellent water avenue for heavy traffic, but such a plan has not proved attractive; on the other hand, a scheme for the construction of a canal to connect Bucarest with the Danube was much to the front during recent years, though no foreign group so far has found the conditions offered by the Government acceptable.

The natural unlaid roads, of which the total length is 33,636 kms., usually become impassable in the rainy season even for ox-carts, and as many districts possess only such natural tracks, they are practically cut off for considerable periods from the rest of the country.